

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Examiner's Final Office Action dated January 11, 2008. Reconsideration of the application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 1-33 were originally filed with this application. Claims 1, 4-6, and 22-29 and 33 were previously canceled without prejudice. Claims 2, 3, 7, 12, 17 and 30 have been amended. Claims 34 – 53 have been added. Hence, Claims 2, 3, 7-21, 30-32, and 34-53 are currently pending.

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested for the reasons set forth in these remarks.

I. CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 USC § 103

Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 12, 13, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,017,475 issued to Cantrell ("*Cantrell*"). Claims 9-11, 14-16, and 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Cantrell* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,342,418 issued to Jesse ("*Jesse*"). Claims 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Cantrell* in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,789,507 issued to Wesley et al. ("*Wesley*").

Without prejudice to the arguments previously raised by Applicant traversing the above referenced rejections, Applicant has amended the Claims 2, 3, 7, 12, 17 and 30 to include the limitation of monitoring the temperature of feedstock for purposes of fire prevention. Applicant respectfully submits that this limitation is not disclosed by prior art and, consequently, that the prior rejection is not proper with respect to Claims 2, 3, 7-21, and 30-32.

Without prejudice to the arguments previously raised by Applicant traversing the above referenced rejections, Applicant has added Claims 34-53 which include the limitation of monitoring the temperature of combustible products for purposes of fire prevention. Applicant respectfully submits that this limitation is not disclosed by prior art and, consequently, that the prior rejection is not proper with respect to Claims 34-53.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are allowable over the art of record and respectfully requests a timely Notice of Allowance.

Please direct all future correspondence for the above-identified application, and direct all telephone calls, to:

William D. Wiese
DuBois, Bryant & Campbell, LLP
700 Lavaca, Suite 1300
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 381-8028
(512) 381-8029 (fax)

Respectfully submitted,

/William D. Wiese/
William D. Wiese
Reg. No. 45,217
DUBOIS, BRYANT & CAMPBELL, LLP
700 Lavaca, Suite 1300
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 381-8028
(512) 381-8029 (Fax)
bwiese@dbcllp.com

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT